

Appendix table 7-4.

Feeling informed about selected policy issues: 1979–2001 (selected years)
 (Percentages)

Issue	1979			1981			1983			1985			1988			1990			1992			1995			1997			1999					
	VI	MI	NI																														
Local school issues	20	48	32	32	45	22	34	41	25	30	47	22	33	44	23	32	46	21	32	46	22	36	46	18	38	44	17	35	47	18	35	48	17
Economic issues and business conditions	14	55	31	29	51	20	28	52	20	22	51	26	22	55	22	25	55	20	29	54	17	25	53	22	25	51	24	23	53	24	23	56	22
New medical discoveries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	57	18	22	59	19	24	57	20	22	58	21	23	57	20	28	56	16	25	56	19	21	59	20
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	55	13	29	56	15	24	56	20	23	55	21	21	54	25	18	58	24	21	54	25
Military and defense policy	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	50	29	21	48	31	17	51	32	26	51	23	24	51	25	17	47	36	18	42	40	21	46	33	15	48	37
Issues about new scientific discoveries	10	52	37	13	49	38	13	53	34	13	59	27	14	55	31	14	55	31	12	54	34	13	58	29	19	58	23	17	56	28	14	57	29
Agricultural and farm issues ...	10	44	45	14	42	44	—	—	—	17	47	35	20	52	27	13	46	42	—	—	—	11	47	42	13	49	38	11	43	45	14	44	43
The use of new inventions and technologies	10	50	39	11	48	40	14	55	32	12	54	34	12	51	36	11	53	35	10	56	33	12	55	33	16	56	28	17	53	30	12	52	36
International and foreign policy issues	8	54	37	17	54	28	14	51	35	15	53	32	14	55	31	22	57	22	19	54	26	10	52	37	10	52	38	14	52	34	12	46	43
Space exploration	—	—	—	14	46	40	13	52	34	16	52	32	13	52	34	11	51	38	9	48	44	9	48	43	16	50	34	13	48	40	10	45	46
Sample size (number)	1,635			3,195			1,631			2,005			2,041			2,033			2,001			2,006			2,000			1,882			1,574		

VI = very well informed; MI = moderately well informed; NI = poorly informed; — = not asked

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. "Don't know" responses are not included. Responses are to the following statement: Now I'd like to go through this list with you again, and for each issue I'd like you to tell me if you are very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.

Science & Engineering Indicators – 2002